The closure of the open end of can 10 includes a rigid cap 12 comprising a circular disc 21 having a cylindrical, annular skirt 22 depending downwardly therefrom. The rigid cap supports the body of the can in a radial direction.

Page 11, please amend the second full paragraph to add the reference numeral "28" after "end" in line 15 as follows, a marked up copy of the paragraph is appended hereto.

A preferred method of packing a food product in accordance with the invention includes placing food products in an open ended can 10 one end 27 of which is sealed (by virtue of manufacture of the can body as a two-piece body sealed at one end) by a closure to provide a container assembly according to the invention. If appropriate, a suitable modified atmosphere may be added above the level of the food product in the can 10 by conventional apparatus; and then a conventional can end 28 may be secured in a *per se* know manner by a "flanger", ie a double seaming machine.

Page 11, please amend the third paragraph to delete "30 the closure of the invention" in favor of -- body portion 13b -- in line 21 by the following amendment, a marked up copy of the paragraph is appended hereto:

Before cooking of the food products, and preferably before the food products are placed in the can, a cap 12 is screwed into the threads 19 of body portion 13b again by machine or by hand as appropriate and tightened down onto the end of can 10 until annular member 24 presses membrane 11 against flange 18 with a predetermined pressure. The moment prior to contact between the components is shown in Figure 3. The predetermined pressure may be achieved eg. by sensing the torque necessary to rotate cap 12 onto the threads 19.

Page 12, please amend the second full paragraph at the end thereof add the statement from originally filed claim 7 as follows:

The action of annular member 24 ensures that the peripheral seal of membrane 11 is strong enough to withstand the additional pressures generated during cooking. The laminar member is spaced from the flexible membrane by a distance less than the maximum possible extension of the flexible member towards the laminar member. The presence of disc 21 prevents rupture of membrane 11 at locations spaced from flange 18.